

DRAFT MINUTES OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Utilities Field Operations Training Center
35 Stony Point Road, Santa Rosa, CA
October 5, 2026

Attendees: Chelsea Thompson, City of Petaluma
Matt Fullner, Valley of the Moon Water District
Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa
Tony Williams, North Marin Water District
Craig Scott, City of Cotati
Mike Berger, City of Sonoma
Cristina Goulart, Town of Windsor
Cortney Bowser, City of Rohnert Park
Lucy Croy, Marin Municipal Water District
Michelle Montoya, City of Santa Rosa

Staff/Alternates: Kent Gylfe, Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)
Brad Sherwood, SCWA
Paul Piazza, SCWA
Don Seymour, SCWA
David Royall, SCWA
Steven Hancock, SCWA
Maso Motlow, SCWA
David Manning, SCWA
Mitch Pearson, City of Rohnert Park
Claire Nordlie, City of Santa Rosa

Public: Bob Anderson
Neil Hancock
Brad Hecht, CEO

1. Check In
Chair Burke called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. Public Comment
None.
3. Water Supply Conditions and Temporary Urgency Change Order
Don Seymour, SCWA, spoke and answered questions regarding Lake Mendocino being at 58,000 acre-ft and the hydrologic condition on the Russian River requiring the minimum instream flow on the lower Russian River to be 85 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 125 cfs on the upper Russian River. Lake Sonoma is currently at 232,000 acre-ft, which is the highest storage ever for this time of year. Lake Pillsbury is still below 36,000 acre-ft with the minimum instream flow on the east branch of the Russian River dropping from 25 cfs to 5 cfs.

Sonoma Water filed the most recent temporary urgency change petition in August and it has been posted for comment by the State Water Resources Control Board.
No public comment.
4. Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partnership
 - a. 2026 Water Production Relative to 2013 Benchmark
For the month of April 2026 compared to 2013, the partnership saw a 16% reduction. The year-to-date compared to 2013 shows a 21% reduction.
No public comment.

b. Water Use Efficiency Messaging

Paul Piazza, SCWA, presented on the 2026 Summer campaign Less Lawn, More..., which includes social media posts and YouTube videos that highlight the campaign. Also, presented on the outreach done at the Sonoma County Fair, 17th Annual Fiest de Independencia, the Zero Waste Reuse and Repair Fair, and the upcoming 2026 Fall campaign.

No public comment.

5. Biological Opinion Status Update

David Manning, SCWA, spoke and answered questions regarding the field work that has been happening over the summer with the fish monitoring, and the Reservoir Operations working group.

Neil Hancock spoke regarding block water and how it may be able to aid flow during storms.

No public comment.

6. Eel Russian Project Authority and Potter Valley Project Update

David Manning, SCWA, spoke and answered questions regarding the Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) working with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) on the New Eel Russian Facility (NERF) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping with the scoping meetings to be held in December or January. Next ERPA board meeting scheduled to be held November 13, 2026 and will be discussing the revenue strategy study and outline the CEQA scoping process., The NERF design is anticipated to be at 60% design by the early part of next year, and Sonoma Water is working with PG&E on the purchase and sale agreement negotiations including easement boundaries and right of ways.

No public comment.

7. El Nino Preparedness and Coordination

Steven Hancock, SCWA, presented and answered questions on the upcoming El Nino which is predicted to hit between January and March where we could see an increase in precipitation and flooding impacts in Sonoma County, the Governor declaring a state of emergency on September 21, 2026 which will align state wide resources, and that on October 6, 2026 the Board of Supervisors will be considering declaring a local state of emergency.

No public comment.

8. Items for Next Agenda – November 2, 2026

None.

No public comment.

9. Check Out

Chair Burke adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.